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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Appln. Of: OKADA et al.

Serial No.: 09/937,652

Filed: September 27, 2001

For: HYDROGEN STORAGE METAL ALLOY, METHOD FOR . . .

Group: 1746

Examiner: Bell, Bruce F. DOCKET: SHIG C10804

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT A

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Official Action mailed March 15, 2004.

Please amend the Application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this Amendment.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 3 of this Amendment.

Amendments to the Abstract begin on page 13 of this Amendment.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 14 of this Amendment.

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REMARKS

The indicated allowance of claims 14-16 is noted, with thanks. Also noted with thanks is the indicated allowability over the art of claims 5, 12-16 and 20-22. While it is believed that the art rejection is not well founded, in order to expedite prosecution and allowance of the subject application, Applicants have amended the claims essentially to incorporate the allowed claims and subject matter indicated to be allowable by the Examiner as follows:

New claim 23 comprises in large part to claim 5 re-written in independent form. New claim 25 essentially comprises claim 12 re-written in independent form. Claim 26 essentially comprises the subject matter of claim 13. New claim 24 has been added to further scope claim 23, while new claims 27-33 have been added to further scope claim 25. And, new claims 34-43 have been added to further scope claim 20.

Since the presented claims essentially comprise claims allowed or indicated to be allowable or new claims dependent on claims allowed or indicated to be allowable, it is believed no specific discussion of the art rejection is necessary.

Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, the Application is believed to be in order for allowance. Early and favorable action are respectfully requested.

Form PTO-2038 in the amount of \$54.00 is enclosed for added claim fees.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account Number 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,



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